

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7872

BILL NUMBER: HB 1644

DATE PREPARED: Feb 8, 1999

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Violent crime victims compensation fund.

FISCAL ANALYST: Mark Bucherl

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 X DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill increases from \$10,000 to \$15,000 the maximum award available to each person who is eligible for financial assistance from the Violent Crime Victims Compensation Fund. It broadens the scope of the fund to include compensation, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000, for counseling for a minor dependent of a victim of a violent crime who witnesses the crime. It also eliminates the requirement that the victim of the violent crime incur at least a \$100 out-of-pocket loss before being eligible for compensation from the Fund.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) This bill allows an additional compensatory provision for mental health expenses to be reimbursed by the dedicated Violent Crime Victims Compensation Fund. It also eliminates the minimum and increases the maximum compensation allowable from the Fund. The estimated maximum impact for these provisions is \$490,000, based on FY 1997 data and the following assumptions. Ultimately, the source of funds required to satisfy this bill provisions will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Eliminating \$100 Minimum: Based on about 100 cases per month where the \$100 out-of-pocket loss was a factor, the maximum increase (based on 1,200 cases x \$100) could be about \$120,000, annually.

Increased Maximum Award: There were 57 cases awarded the current maximum of \$10,000. Assuming these may all have reached a new maximum of \$15,000, the annual increase would be \$285,000.

Minor Mental Health Care: It is predicted that six to seven cases per month would receive counseling under this provision. If all cases reached the maximum payout, the annual increase could be as high as \$84,000.

The Violent Crime Victims Compensation Fund is administered by Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and provides restitution to certain relatives of persons whose injury or death was caused by a violent crime. The balance in the fund as of December 31, 1998 was reported as \$0. For approximately 2,700 claims paid by the Fund, the average payout was between \$800 and \$1,200. (The fund had maintained a negative balance, based on outstanding claims, until its FY 1999 appropriation was fully allotted in August, 1998.) The FY 1999 appropriation to the Fund was \$2.5 M.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Catherine O'Connor, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; Bob Small, Governor's Office.